

People v. Curtiss Mayfield

Amelia Cotton - Part II

(Maybe do short direct?)

Here you are only to be cross-examined. In the direct examination you have already given, you've said roughly what's in the police report, narrative sections.

You and your new husband, Orville Wright, went to the tavern to pick up some wine. You had already been drinking. You wanted some more wine to take to a party at (make up someone's) house. You stayed in the car, Orville went in to get some wine. When he came out he told you "Snake" was in there and he wanted to talk with Snake. You have never seen Snake.

The two of you sat in the car and waited. Orville opened one of the wine bottles and waited. You drank some, not very much. A guy came out and Orville started to get out of the car. "Here he comes," he said. You saw an argument. You saw your husband get shot.

The cross-examiner will imply that the shot that killed your husband and was justified, that it was fired in self-defense. He may even imply that you joined in on the attack. Deny it.

Also: If asked, you will admit that you have a brother who is a Chicago Police Officer named Joseph Cotton. He is a detective. You also know Detective Frank Kerwin, your brother's partner. You do not know how long they have been partners. Frank came to the tavern 11/2 to 2 hours after the shooting. Your brother was there, too. So what? Does that mean you're lying?

Amelia Cotton - Part IV

(Also do Short Direct?)

Essentially, your story is the same as Part II. The difference will be in the cross-examination. This time the implication will be that you really didn't get a very good look at the guy who shot your husband. But you know it's the right guy. You can't say it in court, exactly, but your brother has told you the arrestee's name was Snake, and Orville told you he was going to talk to "Snake" when he came out of the bar. There is no doubt in your mind.

You will probably be cross-examined on the photo identification you made of the defendant. (See supplementary report.) Det. Kerwin showed you five photos on Dec. 14 in Area 6 and you picked out one of Curtiss Mayfield as looking like the offender. You said you wanted to see him in person to be sure.

On Dec. 16 you did see him in person, in a line-up. You viewed it through one-way glass. There were 6 men in it. You recognized Curtiss Mayfield, second from the right.